

MONTANA DRAFT HORSE AND MULE ASSOCIATION

December, 2018

The year is about to come to an end and the cold is taking over. 2018 events for the association were the Spring Meeting in Pryor that was canceled because of knee-deep mud, hay mowing in Pryor with that even being delayed a week or two because of wet weather, participation and sponsorship of EXPO as usual, and the a Fall meeting at Twin Bridges. We have a great time any time we are together and this year saw the addition of several new members.

HAYING IN PRYOR: The hay was tall and thick after all the rain and it seemed like it was almost impenetrable on the first few rounds. We finally got it all figured out and things went well. I don't think we had a single breakdown this year, which contrasts to a few years ago when we had a record number of mowers and only a brief 2 hour period at the end that they were all working. That was the year we learned how to fix a the mowers but this year we just cut right on through and finished easily on the 3rd day. Lyle Johnson has big Amos, a percheron, that has no partner so Lyle trimmed his mower down to a smaller size sickle so it would work with just one horse and it mowed great. We let Amos do the corners and trim up the hard spots as well as following the other teams around the field.





Ed Jorden, Lyle Johnson, and Tom Cordes. Bill and Barb Blomeley were there but not in the pictures

TWIN BRIDGES IN SEPTEMBER

Last year Twin Bridges was at it's worst with heavy rain most of the time we were there. This year we got the opposite—good weather and a great time. This is the time we have our annual meeting so here are the results of that:

New leadership: President, sec/treas, and two directors needed to be elected. The following were re-elected and newly elected:

President: Scott Hackett re-elected for another 2 year term

Vice President: John Cordes—not voted on as he has not finished his first term yet

Sec/Treas: Ed Jorden—re-elected for another 2 year term

Director: Ed Fryer—re-elected for another 2 year term

Director: Dick Grosskropf—elected to replace Bill Blomeley

Dick and his wife, Dawn live outside of Huntley, Montana on the wide open prairie. Dick is a realtor at Dick@MontanaRanches.com with his office in Billings.

Expo dates for 2019 are June 28, 29, 30

We had new member Jim Quade from Roundup introduced along with new members, Weyland Shenck from Bridger and Jessie Marchant and his mother Lynn Marchant from Billings Heights.

In other business: It was approved to continue changing the by-laws to become a 501c3. The cost may be around \$500 and was approved to proceed.

Cultivators are at Deer Lodge and need to be repaired. We will see if someone at Grant Kohrs can help with that.

It was approved to order new shaves for draft and single horse use on the wagons.

Mary Peterson and Lesley Jorden were to look into cost of ordering hats and shirts with the MDHMA logo on them.

Insurance will be purchased again before our next regular meeting.

Rollie has a Manure Spreader, John Deere, for sale: \$1000

Meeting was adjourned.

So the fun began Saturday morning with lots of obstacle and log pulling available for practice. Jessie Marchant was brand new at driving and he got lots of instruction and practice all weekend long. There was friendly competition in the arena in the afternoon with obstacles and

the Canadian maze. Sunday was a very nice drive in the country that used highway, paved lanes, and cross-country traveling. The valley and river were beautiful. It was a great ending to a good event.



On the Sunday ride



Gabby entertained us with lots of prancing around (her horse that is)

Tom giving rides to visitors behind his beautiful Belgians.



Headed out for the Sunday drive.





President Scott Hackett and his wife, Diane on the association's new wagon



Lisa Barnes and Tanya Ballenski getting to hitch.



Smiley, I mean Nicole ready to go.



Connor's classy carriage ready to roll.



New director Dick Grosskopf and wife Dawn with lots of color in their horses.

Two old teamsters getting around a little faster in the pickup had fun telling tall tales of the old days: Rollie Hebel and Pete Peterson.(and Dexter)



Treasurer's report:

One of the special parts of Twin Bridges was that there was NO CHARGE for the meeting like there used to be. Our finances were such that we were able to pay for the facility and associated costs as well as cover the meal costs with help from free-will donations from those attending. We have had expenses for a spare tire that was stolen from the trailer (\$139), had harness income of \$200, Expo sponsorship of \$270.39, and misc. stamps and annual government report of around \$70. At the time of the meeting we had 69 paid members for 2018 and \$5458.44 in the bank. This is a huge improvement over many years as we usually were limping along at around \$1500 in the bank. This is also good because we have recently paid for two new wagons. Dues are really important to keep the finances where we can provide meetings and help to various other organizations. At this mailing there is \$5617.26 in the account after paying all expenses of the Twin Bridges meeting. Even though that is a good amount, keep those dues coming in. That good figure can be eaten up quickly when there are repairs needed on wagons, etc. Thank you for your support.